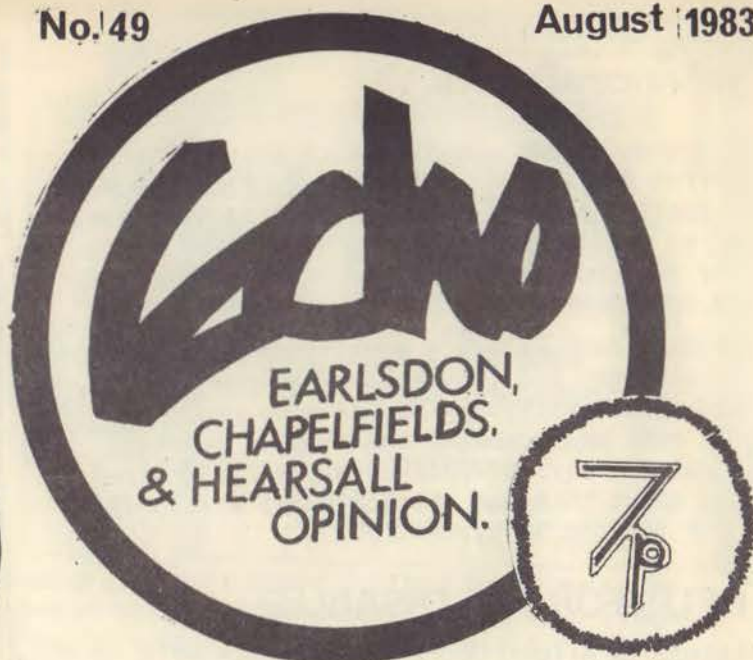


# SUMMER FUN IS HERE!

No. 49

August 1983

*Schools Out For Summer*



*Photos by Barry Smith & Colin Armstrong*



*Children's fun at Broadway Playscheme*



*Strawberry time for a toddler in Earlsdon*

## CASH FOR NEW SCHEMES ?

8th July was the deadline for applications to win Government finance for community and other schemes under Coventry's new Programme Authority status. We have obtained details of three applications affecting the E.C.H.O. area, although we must stress that each scheme will be thoroughly scrutinised over the next few months and maybe none will be accepted.

St. Mary Magdalen's Church has applied for capital of £60,000 in 1984/85 and £60,000 in 1985/86 towards the completion of the West End of the Church by building onto it an integral Church Hall. The present Church Hall is too costly to run, isolated and prone to vandalism, and the site would be sold with the proceeds put toward the total cost. An application is also being made to fund the development of a daily social/luncheon club open to the general public. To improve facilities and supervisory staff the

Church is seeking £7,500 in 1984/85 and £5,000 in 1985/86.

Broadway Community Association is applying for funds to finance a daytime drop-in centre for unemployed people. It would be open three hours a day, five days a week and the Association is requesting a £1,000 capital grant for equipment and £3,000 to pay a supervisor.

Finally, the Area Health Authority and the Social Services Department are backing a joint application to fund a substantial scheme in the centre of Earlsdon. This would involve the relocation of the Earlsdon Social Services District Office from its present cramped premises in Albany Road to a new two-storey building to be shared with a health centre, at the Gilbert Richards Centre. We understand that the total cost could be up to £½ million but that the Planning Department argue there is insufficient space on the site.



## woodcraft folk

On Wednesday 6th July Earlsdon Woodcraft Folk carried out a sponsored clean-up campaign on Hearsall Common. It was a group sponsorship, and as well as organising a worthwhile event they also raised £50 towards the cost of camping equipment.

The Woodcraft Folk are a national organisation for all ages and they hold many indoor and outdoor activities. The Earlsdon group normally meet on Wednesday evenings at Hearsall School and anybody interested in finding out more about them can contact Chris Wilkin tel: 73244 or John Selby tel: 76476.

## HELP FOR THE DISABLED

Attendance Allowance is an allowance paid to any individual over two years old who requires continual supervision in connection with their daily needs in order to live in their own home and avoid danger to themselves. The qualifying criteria are laid out in Attendance Allowance form NI 205 available from Post Offices, DHSS or your local Social Services office.

It is important to note that 'continual supervision' in this context means frequent or regular but not non-stop - so you shouldn't be put off applying if you don't need supervision every single minute.

In theory the process of assessment by a visiting DHSS-appointed Doctor is straightforward but in practice it is very important to prepare yourself carefully for the questions that will be asked. It has been my experience that a number of applications have been inappropriately refused. This happens for three reasons:

Firstly, families who are caring for a disabled person often organise their daily routine around caring for that person and forget that what has become habit is in fact a necessary part of that care. For example, a family I recently worked with, when asked whether or not the disabled person could get up by herself, replied yes. In reality an elaborate process of supervision and support had been established which had become part of the family's 'normal' routine. In fact the woman could physically get out of bed but would not do so, because of her mental handicap, unless her mother was there encouraging and directing her in what to do.

Secondly, when faced with an unknown doctor families will often, understandably, exaggerate what the disabled person can do out of concern that the person is not presented in a 'bad light'. One family, for example found it very hard to admit it to themselves.

## Rene Retires

Mrs. Rene Ingram, who has been a dinner lady at Earlsdon Junior School for 15 years, has had to retire through ill-health. We wish her an improvement in her health, so that she may enjoy a long and happy retirement.

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Thirdly, it is my experience that no matter how sympathetic, some visiting doctors are unaware of the complexities of caring for a disabled person and can rush through the assessment demanding yes/no answers. Some families become flustered by this and can easily forget to explain important factors. For example, one family was pushed by a doctor into saying that their child could walk 20 yards. The family felt flustered by the form the questioning took and forgot to mention that the child would wander in any direction and would often sit down refusing to rise again.

It may appear to many of us that these problems are ones we would not experience if applying but I assure you they are very common. There is a way round them which I advise families to follow that generally avoids these pitfalls.

This involves sitting down and making a long list of everything you have to do for the disabled person throughout the day. This should be done before the doctor arrives and should include everything you do - no matter how little it may appear - and should also include a list of any accidents or potential dangers the disabled person has experienced over the past year. A checklist of areas of possible need has been prepared by the Disability Rights Alliance and is obtainable by sending a stamped addressed envelope 9" by 6½" to Disability Alliance, 21 Star Street, London W2 1QB. This is a particularly useful list to sit down and make notes on in preparation for the doctor's visit.

If you have any trouble the Disability Rights Officer at the Benefit Shop, Corporation Street, or the local Social Services office would be pleased to help.

Mick Small,  
Senior Caseworker for Mental Handicap,  
Earlsdon Social Services, Albany Rd.

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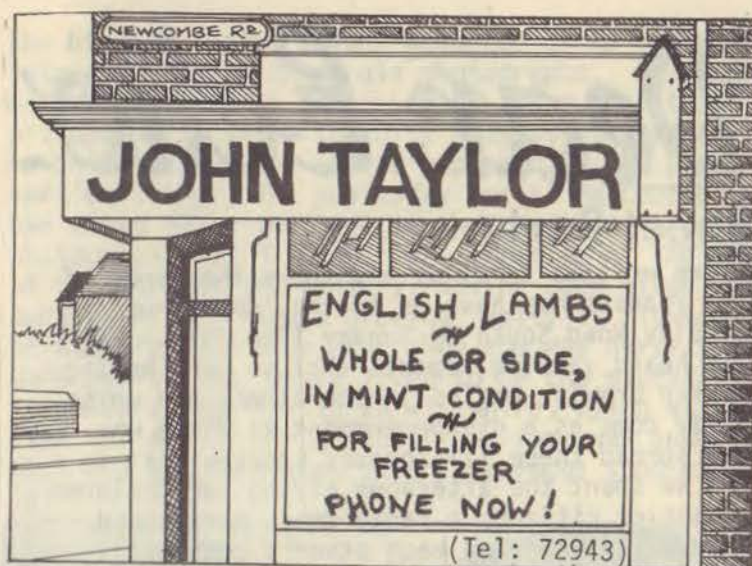




## Setback for Local Band

Local group Masque suffered an unfortunate blow when they were forced to cancel their Coventry debut gig as a result of a car accident which put lead vocalist Brian Russell in hospital. The group, who have been formed three months, had previously only played outside the city and were looking forward to their first appearance at Tamango's in the city centre. Masque have already recorded six demo tracks at Woodbine Studios in Leamington and some interest has been shown in them by record companies, notably Island Records.

The band consists of Brian Russell (vocals), Roger Clarke (keyboards), David Johnson (bass), and John Taylor (drums). John Taylor was until very recently the drummer with Zirkus but has once more teamed up with Brian and Roger, his former colleagues from Surface Tension. Brian and Roger are responsible for writing all the lyrics and music respectively in Masque's set. It is difficult, and perhaps not very worthwhile to try to categorise Masque's music. Whilst they revolve around Roger's synthesiser work they do not necessarily fit very well into the category of 'electronic music'. Their songs are not based on simple catchy synth riffs but are rather more developed. They hope to expand the



range of their music further by bringing in a brass section intermittently and also intend having a second front-man vocalist.

Masque are ambitious to the extent that they believe they can become the No.1 band in Coventry in the not-too-distant future, and in the meantime are busily trying to arrange gigs in both London and Birmingham. E.C.H.O. will be following their progress keenly in the future, and we wish Brian a speedy recovery from his accident.

## BABY

## LIFELINE



Baby Lifeline is a Coventry-based charity founded in 1980 by Judy Hills, a state registered nurse. After losing three babies born prematurely, Mrs. Hills set up a charity to raise money to provide the technology that would enable such infants to survive in local Coventry hospitals. In fact the West Midlands, and Coventry in particular, have the worst statistics in the country for stillbirths and deaths in the first week of life (15.4 per 1,000 births in Coventry as opposed to 11.8 in England and Wales as a whole).

Many of these babies would grow up to be healthy children if the more modern techniques were free-

ly available. However, the NHS cannot afford the equipment, which costs thousands of pounds, and the government will not contribute.

Baby Lifeline has raised £40,000 in just two years, and more than £35,000 has already been spent on equipment in Coventry hospitals and units. The money has been raised through various events, and soon a Charity Auction is to be held at Warwick University.

'Gandhi' star Ben Kingsley has donated a painting of himself playing the role of Edmund Kean (a recent West End part) valued at £200, Cliff Richard has donated a T-shirt, David Attenborough, Esther Rantzen and Pam Ayres have autographed books, and Penelope Keith has sent a cheque book cover and scarf. These items and many other personal mementos offered by well-known celebrities are to be auctioned on FRIDAY 19th AUGUST, at ROOTES HALL, WARWICK UNIVERSITY, 8.00 pm. Tickets £3 to include a wine and cheese tasting. Further information from Judy Hills tel: 619997, or local contact Hilary Rackstraw, 72 Earlsdon Avenue South tel: 714550.

# E.C.H.O. SNIPPETS

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# Dear Echo

## Street Party

We are writing to allay any fears that some of our readers may have as to the 'goings-on' in Berkeley Road South on Sunday 10th July. We have heard varying reports that we were having drunken brawls, orgies in the street and worse. It may come as a disappointment to those who have spread these ill-founded stories that in fact we spent the afternoon giving our children and senior citizens a fancy dress party, and the evening enjoying each other's company at a dance/buffet in the street.

In Berkeley Road South we value the friendship and support that we each receive from our neighbours during the year and find that a street party is the best way of celebrating and fostering this community spirit.

Maybe those who don't value such things and who find such parties offensive would come and discuss their worries with us in future before they spread groundless stories about us.

D. Galliers and other concerned residents of Berkeley Road South, Earlsdon.

ECHO supports and encourages community activity in the area and believes that street parties have an important role to play in enhancing community spirit. It is sad that some people have complained about noise and so on when after all the street party only occurs on one day a year, and obviously gives a great deal of pleasure to residents of all ages. We would like to see a little more tolerance towards occasional events of this kind.

## Stray Cat

For some time a dark striped tabby cat, with white chest and paws, has been coming round. In March this year he arrived with an injured front leg, which was then put right, presumably by his owner taking him to a vet as he did not come again for five days. A blue collar he had been wearing had been taken off him when he next came.

He is now staying with me all the time. I assume his owner must have been local. However, I am now leaving the district and of course, if the cat is not wanted, I will have to take him with me.

Mrs. Joanna Daly,  
85 Kingston Road,  
Earlsdon.

Perhaps if the owner recognises this cat and wants him back, he/she will contact Mrs. Daly.



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## Good Samaritan

Mr. Tom Briscoe is unemployed and in his early fifties. He's one of those people who just hate sitting around doing nothing, but his Social Security does not allow him the luxury of hobbies - and somehow, for us here in Chapelfields it is a blessing in disguise.

He very kindly maintains our entries and alleyways for us, two in particular which connect Craven Street to Hearsall Lane and are very often in a disgusting state where members of the public have dumped their unwanted refuse. Then along comes Tom, picks it all up, gets out his spade and chops out all the weeds. Only the other week he was cutting the hedge (and by hand I might add) that surrounds the Vicarage and St. Mary Magdalen's Church, and that is some hedge.

We are all very grateful to Tom, for helping to keep Chapelfields tidy. A Good Samaritan indeed. Is anyone else as lucky as us? Do you have a Samaritan? Lets hear about him or her if you have.

Eileen Cairns,  
Chapelfields Post Office,  
Craven Street.

*It's heart-warming to hear there are people like Tom about - please tell us if there are any more. And it's marvellous to see and hear people making their awareness and appreciation of this kind of selfless activity so obvious. Not even the best-intentioned people can go on being taken for granted indefinitely. Thanks, Eileen.*

*Taylor-Dunn*  
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## E.C.H.O. Diary of Events

There is very little in the Diary this month due to many groups taking a summer break. Please let us know details of events and programmes of activities starting again in September, by 23rd August at the latest, via the E.C.H.O. Box in Earlsdon Library.

- AUG 3rd 7.30 pm St. Barbara's Ladies Group - Social evening: bring records, songs, poetry. St. Barbara's Church Meeting Room.
- 7th 2.00-5.00 pm Earlsdon CND Peace Picnic, Spencer Park. Inflatable, stalls, live music, refreshments.
- 16th 7.45 pm Hearsall W.I. Mrs. Barrett: It Should Happen To A Land Girl St. Mary Magdalens Church Common Rm.
- 19th 8.00 pm Baby Lifeline Celebrity Auction, Rootes Hall, Warwick University.



# CITY ARMS past & present

Lucky for some, they say, but on 13th July it was one year to the day since the City Arms re-opened following major internal re-modelling. They celebrated in style with a birthday party for twenty children from Earlsdon School, kept in order by Mr. Schneider the Headmaster, a teacher Mrs. Ramm, and Mrs. Aspinall the School Secretary. City Arms staff wore fancy dress and Mr. Greedy and Mr. Nosey were there to help the children enjoy their Mr. Men meals (beefburger and chips were definitely the favourites!) The children were given balloons, Beefeater T-shirts and hats, and Mrs. Greenwell the Manageress told us that the company held similar events at their other pubs.



Photos by Barry K Smith

Later on, in the evening, Earlsdon Morris Men danced outside the City Arms, attracting an appreciative crowd.



## Summer Play

ALDERMAN CALLOW SCHOOL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE, MITCHELL AVENUE.

1st-19th August 10-12 noon, 1-3 pm.

CONTACT: Belinda Pritchard Tel: 467779.

BARRS HILL SCHOOL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE, RADFORD RD  
25th July-26th August 10-12 noon, 1-3 pm.

CONTACT: Ian Minty Tel: 52291.

BROADWAY PLAYScheme, GILBERT RICHARDS CENTRE, BROADWAY.

18th July-11th Aug Mon, Tues, Thurs 12.30-4.30pm

CONTACT: Ian Minty Tel: 52291.

HEARSALL COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, KINGSTON ROAD

1st-17th August Mon, Tues, Wed 1-4 pm.

CONTACT: Shirley Pepper Tel: 74625.

SPON END PLAYCENTRE, HOPE STREET

18th July-25th August 11 am - 3 pm.

CONTACT: Ian Minty Tel: 52291.

The birthday celebrations prompted us to delve 5 into our collection of old photographs. Many of our readers may be surprised to learn that the picture below shows the City Arms as it used to be before 1930 when it was replaced by the present building. The pub today has a 'Ma Cooper' bar named after the lady in the centre of the photograph, for Ma Cooper was licensee of the pub at the turn of the century, having been given the tenancy by the famous brewing family of Flowers of Stratford-on-Avon, for whom she was nurse for many years. Ma Cooper lived to be the oldest licensed victualler in Warwickshire, dying at the ripe old age of 91 in 1921. Her fame was such that she was mentioned in an anonymous song of 1915.



## ALL HIS OWN WORK

Colin Armstrong gave up his job at the University early this year to see if he could spend more time on - and make a living from - his hobbies. Now the results of some of those hobbies are to be on exhibition during the Coventry Festival, starting on 1st August.

The exhibition will be in a shop in the Precinct, probably Dixons, and will consist of paintings and photographs, with a tape of Colin's songs. Admission will be by catalogue, at a nominal cost. Colin has previously exhibited his work at both the Belgrade Theatre and the University. Colin is satisfied with what he's been able to do since giving up his steady job, and he is now also running Armstrong's Book and Collectables in Westwood Road, but as he says: "I now work double the time for half the pay!"

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## Two in Tune

The Albany Duo is the performing name of Earlsdon based classical guitarists Brian Penny and Colin Beasley. Brian has been teaching guitar since 1976 and was founder of the Birmingham Guitar Society in that year. Three years later he began teaching at Coventry School of Music and Warwick University and co-founded Coventry Classical Guitar Society along with Colin. Colin has also taught at Coventry School of Music and has published a successful and popular beginner's tutor 'Guitar Music', which is now in its second edition.

The Albany Duo have a repertoire of contemporary and traditional music and have concerts arranged throughout the country including the Lord Mayor's Concert on 6th August and a performance at the Herbert Art Gallery at 3.15 pm on 10th August. The Duo may be contacted through Brian Penny, 145 Earlsdon Avenue North, tel: 75113.

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## IT HAPPENED THIS MONTH

Some more snippets from Bert Wilson's notes, this time on happenings in Augusts past:

Back in August of 1799 and of 1803, a Gooseberry Feast is recorded as being held at local pubs - at the Punch Bowl in 1799 and for the first time at the Black Horse in 1803.

In 1846, a torrential August thunderstorm caused the River Sherbourne to flood the land around Spon End bridge. In another August 126 years later the Sherbourne was widened and deepened to prevent flooding.

In August of 1852 the Nursery Gardens, later the Nursery Tavern, was opened in Lord Street. Another pubby item - a Quoits ground was advertised at the Bowling Green inn in August 1854.

This month in 1867 was the first recorded mention of the 'Earlsdon Garden Association', when they held a Horticultural Fete on 'Mr. Slingsby's field' in Chapelfields. Can anybody tell us anything more about this? And who was Mr. Slingsby?

The old chapel/hospital of St. James and St. Christopher in Spon End was saved by the National Fire Service from serious fire damage in August

HEARSALL ENVIRONMENTAL  
SOCIETY

## Summer Fete

2.00 - 5.00 pm

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## E.C.H.O.

Unfortunately we have no photographs in this issue of the Berkeley Road South street party or the Hearsall Common clean-up by the Woodcraft Folk, due to a technical problem. Also in general it is difficult for us to take pictures of events in the summer due to our regular photographer being on holiday. In line with our policy of giving preference to news items we have once more held over the next article in our series about the Rex Motor Company.

Sorry to repeat it yet again, but we badly need a graphic artist, particularly to help produce the bumper September issue. Anyone with a little time to spare will be very welcome.

DON'T FORGET TO MAKE SURE OF YOUR COPY OF OUR SPECIAL 50th EDITION next month.

People involved in producing this issue were:

Chris Boote  
Keith Bushnell  
Ann Groves  
Niall McChesney

Angela Maton  
Graham Partridge  
Barry Smith  
Anne Wood

1947. The chapel was founded around 1180 down by the River Sherbourne at the 'Sponne', and belonged to the Priory of Coventry. It was also damaged by bombing on the night of the great blitz of 14th and 15th November in 1940. The timber-framed building was finally demolished about twenty years ago, and St. Christopher's Club now stands on the site. The ruined walls remaining at the front formed part of the old chapel.

Coming forward a few more years, in August 1961 Ralph Moffit of Hearsall Golf Club won a place in the British Ryder Cup team.

In August 1965 work commenced on making Four Pounds Avenue into a dual carriageway.

Our last snippet of information for this month, appropriately, is to mention the last trip of a sixteen-year-old Coventry-made Daimler rear-loader bus on the No.9 (now 29 and 39) route in August of 1979.



## «At your service.»

### GREEN JADE DESIGNS

Green Jade Designs was set up by Ken Smith at the beginning of this year, when he decided to leave a job that he found unsatisfying and start his own business.

Ken has gradually developed his own skills in the working of leaded and stained glass, and uses what is known as the 'Tiffany' technique to create terraria to his own designs. A terrarium is a many-sided glass case of varying shapes and sizes which gives plants the opportunity to thrive in a humid microclimate. The base of the terrarium is prepared for the plants with chippings, charcoal and a growing medium. The terrarium will then only require occasional watering as the plants will recycle water, oxygen and carbon dioxide within the confines of the closed case. The 'Tiffany' technique, in which copper bonding is used on the edges of each piece of glass before they are welded together with lead, ensures that the cases are strong and watertight.

Ken has extended his range to include mirrors, and is now starting to make lamps as well. He has not been able to sell his products through local shops as their mark-up would be so much that they would not actually want him to be selling direct in the same area, as his prices would be too competitive! He is therefore concentrating on selling through craft fairs (and had a stall at the recent Royal Show) and producing large individual pieces for interior designed houses, hotels etc. He is also thinking of running classes to teach the skill to others

as a hobby craft, and selling the necessary materials to those who wish to take it up as a hobby.



If you are interested in buying a terrarium, mirror etc. or in getting more information, Ken can be reached on tel: 78040. Alternatively he will have a stand at the Town and Country Festival, and at the Stratford Craft Week, Aug. 9th-13th, Parish Hall, Old Town, Stratford-on-Avon.

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### Free Legal Advice

It is not well known that people on Supplementary Benefit and Family Income Supplement can get Legal Advice and Assistance from a solicitor FREE OF CHARGE. This scheme, known as the 'Green Form Scheme' from the colour of the application form, was introduced to help people who cannot normally afford professional legal help.

**WHO CAN GET IT?** Help is available to people who:  
- are 16 years or over - (It can also be obtained by a parent, guardian or other responsible person on behalf of a child under 16) - and  
- whose savings and income are below a specified level. It is automatically free to people on Supplementary Benefit or Family Income Supplement; if you do not get these you may still be entitled to help, although you may have to pay a contribution towards the costs which is worked out on a sliding scale depending on your income and family size.

**WHAT SORT OF WORK DOES IT COVER?** Normally the Scheme can cover advice given anywhere - at the solicitor's office, a hospital, prison or police station. It can include writing letters, drawing up documents such as wills and tenancy agreements taking statements from witnesses, obtaining a barrister's opinion, obtaining medical reports,

preparing a written case for the client to represent himself at a tribunal and so on. It does not normally cover court hearings but there are certain exceptions to this.

A fresh application can be made for each separate legal problem.

**IS THERE A LIMIT TO THE AMOUNT OF WORK DONE?** Under the Green Form Scheme a solicitor can initially carry out work up to the cost of £40.00 (excluding VAT). This can be extended with the permission of the local Legal Aid Committee if the work required exceeds these figures, as frequently happens in complicated cases. Where a solicitor is giving advice on divorce or matrimonial proceedings he may carry out work up to a cost of £75.00; again in complicated cases this figure can be raised.

**WILL ANY SOLICITOR DO LEGAL AID WORK?** Most firms of solicitors, though not all, will do so. The Citizens Advice Bureau (above the Argos showroom in Corporation St.) has a Legal Aid Solicitors' Referral List of firms of solicitors who undertake work in particular subjects. Anyone wanting further advice on this or any other matter is welcome to call into the Bureau (open Mon, Wed & Fri 10am - 4pm, Tues 1 - 4pm, Thurs 5.30 - 7pm).

Hilary Brown, Coventry C.A.B.



# SHOPPING

RON HACKETT MOTORCYCLES opened recently in the former Irene's shop in Kensington Road. Ron and his wife Rhoda moved from a rented shop in Spon End and they are pleased with the way trade is building up. They sell new and used motorcycle spares, including complete engines for road and off-road bikes - all foreign, as the British market is now very specialised. Ron commented "I think we've got more spares than anyone else in Coventry".

Ron is well known in the motorcycling fraternity as a former T.T. rider but the whole family is involved with bikes. Rhoda is a founder-member and current Secretary of the Coventry Junior Moto Cross Club and son Alan, who is fifteen won his first race in School Moto-Cross at Newbold recently.

The shop is closed all day Tuesday and Sunday, otherwise open 9am-6pm except Saturday 9am-5pm.

\* \* \* \* \*

SHALIMAR Indian take-away is expected to open on 13th August in the premises formerly occupied by Columbia Carpets in Earlsdon Street.

\* \* \* \* \*

And we hear a rumour that Kwik-Save may be opening a new supermarket in the former Astoria Cinema premises in Albany Road.



Photo by Barry K Smith

## Wearing Thin

Training for the Coventry Marathon? If you are, or are just running for exercise, you may find the soles of your shoes are wearing out. Rather than buy a new pair - and they can be pretty expensive - it's worth checking to see if they can be re-soled. Sports Supplies in Albany Road will re-sole some makes of running shoe for £7.95. You can take them in on Wednesday and collect on Friday, so your running programme is not disrupted! In an emergency you can buy 'Shoe Goo' to apply to your shoe soles for a short-term repair.

## Party Spirit

*A good time for street parties - this one shows how they enjoyed themselves around here during the Coronation celebrations in 1953.*



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